

### **REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 24-34 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 24-34 as being allowable.

### **Entry of Amendment**

Applicant requests the entry of the present Amendment after Final Rejection since all of the non-allowed claims have now been cancelled, leaving only allowable claims. Accordingly, the present amendment *prima facie* places the application into condition for allowance.

### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Hidaka. This rejection is respectfully traversed. This claim has now been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Applicant has cancelled claims 11-22, 35 and 36, which were previously withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications for these claims.

**Conclusion**

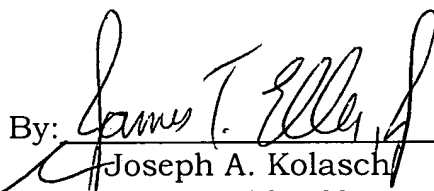
In view of the above Remarks, it is believed that all of the claims are now allowable, as indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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